

Manufacturing Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
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What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

Missouri Numbers:



10,341 Employers



306,709 Workers



\$70,322 Average Wage

Why Have a Career in Manufacturing?

Manufacturing creates the products people need and want. From clothing to computers, almost everything we touch throughout the day is manufactured. Manufacturing represents 12.7 percent of total private sector employment in Missouri, employing 306,709 workers across 10,341 businesses in 2022. Employment in Manufacturing has been steadily growing, increasing by 1.2 percent per year from 2017 to 2022.

Missouri has high employment concentrations in Manufacturing, particularly in *Leather & Allied Products*, as well as *Transportation Equipment*. Wages in Manufacturing averaged \$70,322 in 2022, higher than the \$54,520 state average for all industries.

Manufacturing encourages creativity and analytical thinking, an opportunity for a meaningful and rewarding career with good pay and advancement in Production, Business Operations, and Engineering and Maintenance.

Know the Basics

The Manufacturing Industry refers to material and product producers and the industries that support them. Soft skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability, are important in all industries and occupations, including Manufacturing occupations. Manufacturing jobs can revolve around shifts and production quotas so dependability, along with being flexible when the situation demands, is a valued characteristic. Manufacturing careers can involve interactions with customers so customer service skills, such as being able to talk about the benefits of a product or service, or accept criticism as a professional company representative, are important. Safety issues and quality control are also a critical part of this industry, so attention to details and continuous learning are necessary.

Skills needed for Success:

Manufacturing has a set of industry-wide technical competencies that represent the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in this industry. Some of the skills needed for success in the manufacturing industry include manufacturing process design, development, maintenance, repair, knowledge of and compliance with government regulations, as well as the ability to adapt and consider new ways of doing things.

Who's Hiring in Missouri?

The Boeing Company

General Dynamics

Bayer Corporation

Burns & McDonnell

Anheuser-Busch Companies



Production

Business Operations & Sales

Engineering & Maintenance

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Helpers-Production Workers
Entry: \$29,980 Average: \$34,370

Customer Service Reps.
Entry: \$30,840 Average: \$40,410

**Helpers-Installation,
Maintenance, & Repair Workers**
Entry: \$31,530 Average: \$47,610

Certificates: Forklift Operator
Certification

Certificates: Business
Administration

Certificates: Industrial Maintenance

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

Machine Operators
Entry: \$24-\$49K Average: \$29K-\$62K

**First-Line Supervisors
of Production Workers**
Entry: \$48,130 Average: \$64,760

CNC Programmers
Entry: \$48,020 Average: \$59,630

**Executive Administrative
Assistants**
Entry: \$46,590 Average: \$60,180

**Sales Representatives,
Wholesale & Manufacturing**
Entry: \$45,810 Average: \$73,930

Industrial Machinery Mechanics
Entry: \$42,930 Average: \$55,970

Mechanical Drafter
Entry: \$46,380 Average: \$59,520

Industrial Engineering Techs
Entry: \$48,240 Average: \$65,920

Certificates: Forklift Operator,
Machine Operator, CNC Machinist
Technology

Degrees: Business
Administration & Management

Degrees: Engineering
Certificates: Industrial
Maintenance, CAD Certificate

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Industrial Production Managers
Entry: \$79,400 Average: \$110,040

General Operations Managers
Entry: \$53,990 Average: \$103,760

Mechanical Engineers
Entry: \$69,830 Average: \$91,250

Sales Managers
Entry: \$89,950 Average: \$143,710

Electrical Engineers
Entry: \$78,680 Average: \$102,840

Buyers & Purchasing Agents
Entry: \$43,580 Average: \$64,700

Industrial Engineers
Entry: \$74,860 Average: \$96,780

Degrees: Engineering,
Business Administration &
Management

Degrees: Business Administration
& Management, Marketing,
Engineering, Logistics

Degrees: Engineering

Sources: Lightcast™

Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse
2022 Occupational Employment Survey Wage data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Top employers data is based on 2022 online job ads



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